

Atherton may yet visit Damascus

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (R). — The United States has discussed with Syria the possibility of a visit by President Carter's special Middle East envoy Alfred Atherton, but he has no present plan to go to Damascus, the State Department said today. Spokesman Hodding Carter, who declined to go into details of the discussions, told reporters: "At some appropriate time the possibility of a trip by Mr. Atherton to Syria is not excluded." "We have been, and continue to, keep Syria informed regularly of developments in the peace negotiations..." the State Department spokesman added. "We continue to hope that in the future Syria's leaders will decide it is in their interest to rejoin the overall peace process."

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Egypt stages "practical" manoeuvre in southern military sector

CAIRO, Feb. 28 (AP). — The Egyptian air force today staged "an advance practical" manoeuvre with live ammunition in the country's southern military sector, the Middle East News Agency reported. It said the manoeuvre, witnessed by War Minister Mohammad Abdul Ghanl Gamassi and Air Force Commander Mahmoud Shaker Abdul Mune'm, involved a dog fight and mock attacks on ground targets. Sophisticated air to ground missiles, modified by the Egyptians to suit modern warfare, were used in the manoeuvre, the agency added without giving types or further details.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

Palestinian issue remains main bone of contention between Egypt, Israel, Atherton says in Cairo

CAIRO, Feb. 28 (R). — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton said here today the Palestinian issue still remained the main stumbling block to agreement on a declaration of principles for a comprehensive Middle East settlement. Mr. Atherton told reporters after a 90-minute discussion with Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammad Ibrahim Kamel: "The main bone of contention remains the Palestinian question and it is one we are continuing to give particular attention to."

Mr. Atherton said the gap between the two countries -- had been "good and will be continued tomorrow before I go back to Israel."

He said: "The minister (Mr. Kamel) and I had very good preliminary talks. I have reported to him on my most recent round of talks in Israel. We discussed in a preliminary way the Israeli suggestions on the declaration of principles which I brought with me and we will meet again tomorrow to continue the discussions."



Egypt's Foreign Minister Mohammad Ibrahim Kamel (left) is seen with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton Tuesday after a one-hour meeting in Cairo during which they discussed Israel's counter proposals to the Middle East peace effort. (AP wirephoto)

Kyprianou sworn in as president of Cyprus

Holds out olive branch to Egypt

Israel accepted two points

Well-informed American sources said Israel had accepted two of the six or seven points suggested by Egypt. The two points referred to the nature of peace, and that all countries in the region should live in peace within secure and recognised borders.

"Israel finds agreement might be possible on two other points dealing with Jewish settlements," the sources said. They did not elaborate. But differences remained on points referring to Egypt's demand for Palestinian self-determination, the sources said. Mr. Atherton expected back here next week after visiting Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, American officials said.

He would interrupt his shuttle diplomacy to fly back to Washington to prepare for Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's visit due to start on March 14, they added.

It was not immediately known whether Mr. Atherton would meet President Anwar Sadat during his current visit here.

Riyadh Radio reported today that Mr. Atherton was due in Saudi Arabia on Sunday for a two-day visit during which he will meet with Crown Prince Fahd.

Syria has not closed the door to peace

Syria, according to the Syrian government newspaper Tishrin, has refused to receive Mr. Atherton during the latter's current Middle East shuttle.

In an editorial published today, Tishrin said Syria's refusal to receive Mr. Atherton did not mean it had closed the door on a Middle East peace settlement.

Syria, the newspaper said, "will continue supporting all efforts toward establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East," but would refuse a dialogue with "any negotiator who speaks from a base of power" and who attempts "to impose capitulation on the Arabs."

NICOSIA, Feb. 28 (R). — President Spyros Kyprianou today held out a diplomatic olive branch to Cairo over the Larnaca airport battle in which 15 Egyptian commandos died but he said Cyprus would always defend its sovereignty as it did then.

Mr. Kyprianou was addressing the house of representatives after being formally sworn in for a five-year term following presidential elections last month, in which he was unopposed as the successor to the late President Makarios.

"I shall do everything possible for the warming up of our relations with countries with which our relations have been disturbed," he said.

But he stressed that Cyprus, though a small country, would never hesitate to defend its sovereign rights "as we have proved recently."

The rift with Egypt followed the shooting in Nicosia of leading Egyptian newspaper editor Youssef Sibai on Feb. 18 and the abortive Egyptian commando raid at Larnaca to free hostages held by two Arab gunmen on a commandeered Cyprus airliner.

Two men charged with the murder of Mr. Sibai, 60, appeared in court today on the second day of a preliminary hearing.

Samir Mohammad Khadar, 28, and Zayed Hussein Ahmad Al Ali, 26, who hold Jordanian and Kuwaiti passports respectively, face a mandatory death sentence if convicted. They have not been asked to plead.

A police witness who was himself held hostage after Mr. Sibai was shot at the Nicosia Hilton Hotel 10 days ago told the court Mr. Khadar had informed the hostesses he and his co-accused had come to Cyprus specially to kill Mr. Sibai. The hearing continues.

Egypt has demanded the extradition of the two men but Cyprus has refused, further aggravating the crisis in relations.

Mr. Kyprianou assured relatives of 2,800 Greek Cypriots alleged to be missing as a result of the invasion that he would not cease in his efforts to trace their loved ones.

The president promised Greek Cypriot refugees now living in the south that he would not stop fighting for their return, and he assured the Greek Cypriot people as a whole he would strive hard and consistently for their physical and national survival.

Weizman says Shiloh settlement in W. Bank may be closed down

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 28 (R). — Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman indicated today that the settlement by Jewish ultra-nationalists at Shiloh on the occupied West Bank might be closed unless excavations began soon, Israel Radio said.

He said the government would have to reconsider its permission for their residence at the site, the radio said.

His remarks to a secret meeting of the Knesset Defence and Security Committee followed a statement last night by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan that the government had established no new Jewish settlements in occupied areas since taking office last year.

Mr. Weizman said the Defence Ministry wanted to remove settlers of the Gush Emunim (Faith Bloc) movement from the Shiloh site -- by force if necessary -- but the cabinet ruled they could stay as long as they were defined as an archaeological dig, Israel Radio said.

It added that most committee members criticised government handling of the affair.

Committee sources would not comment on the report.

A partial text of Foreign Minister Dayan's speech issued by the Foreign Ministry quoted him as saying: "I do not know of a single settlement which has been established not only since Sadat's visit but since this government was formed."

Israel's peace proposals were a package deal including demilitarisation and the maintenance of Israeli settlements as a security border strip protected by Israeli police, he told the

29th World Zionist Congress.

"The policy of the government is not to establish new settlements. No new settlements have been established," he claimed.

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"If there is room in a settlement for 80 families and there are only 60, there is no reason not to add another 20 and if more... is required, we shall provide more."

PLO accuses Egypt of mounting hate campaign

BEIRUT, Feb. 28 (R). — The Palestine Liberation Organisation today accused the Egyptian government of embarking on an anti-Palestinian hate campaign as a first step towards its disengagement from the Palestinian cause.

The PLO news agency, Wafa, made the charge in an editorial on a decision yesterday by Cairo to strip Palestinians living in Egypt of special privileges granted them by the late President Nasser more than two decades ago.

The editorial was the first official PLO reaction to the decision which has caused widespread anger and dismay even among Palestinians not linked to any of the commando groups under the umbrella of the PLO, observers here said.

The Egyptian decision was announced yesterday by Prime Minister Mamdouh Salama during a report to parliament on the Egyptian commando raid on Larnaca airport following the assassination in Nicosia of a leading Egyptian journalist, Mr. Youssef Sibai, by two Palestinians.

Wafa described Egypt's action as "only the beginning of a hate campaign which might well reach the point of total Egyptian dissociation... from the Palestinian cause."

Western press reports from Cairo have said that President Sadat's government was considering breaking relations with the PLO in the wake of Mr. Sibai's assassination and the subsequent ill-fated Egyptian commando raid on Larnaca airport.

The editorial said the Egyptians had merely seized on the Cyprus event "as a convenient pretext for their anti-Palestinian measures." It harshly condemned the two gunmen's "terrorist attack" and said they were hired agents without links to any Palestinian organisation.

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Nicosia court tries Sibai's killers

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Feb. 28 (AP). — One of two gunmen charged with murdering Egyptian editor Youssef Sibai, editor of the semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram, "because he was a friend of Israel," a witness told a Nicosia court of inquiry today.

"We are Palestinians. We came specially for that man, to kill him, because he was a friend of Israel and wrote some articles in his newspaper against the Palestinians," Georgios Georgiou, a Greek Cypriot policeman, quoted the gunman, Samir Mohammad Khadar, as saying.

Georgiou told the court Mr. Khadar made this statement to several hostages he and his alleged murder accomplice were holding at gunpoint in Nicosia's Hilton Hotel on Feb. 18, immediately after Sibai was shot in a hotel corridor.

Mr. Sibai's murder set the stage for a clash at Larnaca airport the next day, during which 15 Egyptian commandos were killed. They were mowed down by Greek Cypriot troops while trying to storm a Cyprus Airways jetliner in which the two gunmen were holding 11 Arab hostages and the plane's four-man crew.

Mr. Khadar, 28, arrived in Cyprus on a Jordanian passport on Feb. 13. The other accused, Zayed Hussein Ahmad Al Ali, 26, arrived the following day, travelling on a Kuwaiti passport.

The two were arrested by Cyprus authorities when they surrendered immediately after the Larnaca airport clash.

Mr. Georgiou, who was on security guard duty at the hotel, said he drew his gun and tried to shoot Khadar when he first saw him rounding up hostages moments after the Sibai shooting.

"But someone told me not to shoot, pointing out that Khadar was holding a hand grenade with the pin removed, while surrounded by conference delegates," Mr. Georgiou told the court.

Mr. Georgiou said he was himself held hostage and disarmed.

Another witness, an Egyptian cabaret employee, Orfat Ibrahim, testified that the two accused spent lavishly on a nightclub spree the night before the murder.



An Egyptian cabaret girl is escorted to court by armed police in Nicosia Tuesday to testify in the trial of the two gunmen accused of murdering Egyptian editor Youssef Sibai. She told the court the accused had spent lavishly on a nightclub spree the night before Mr. Sibai's murder. (AP wirephoto)

Two other cabaret girls, also befriended by the gunman, gave similar evidence on the opening day of the inquiry Monday.

One of the cabaret performers, Miss Panayota "Pitsa" Constantinou, testified under questioning bow she and an Arab speaking friend called Sabara stayed with the two men in adjoining rooms at the Hilton the night before the killing.

She said the two men left the hotel about two hours before Mr. Sibai was shot dead outside the hotel bookshop.

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Owen back in London voices new confidence in M.E. peace prospects

LONDON, Feb. 28 (R). — British Foreign Secretary Dr. David Owen returned home from Middle East today and expressed new confidence in the use of the Israeli-Egyptian peace talks.

Dr. Owen, who had talks with British and Jordanian leaders, said he thought the peace initiative was beginning to pick momentum again.

"At one stage one wondered whether the talks had gone off rails, but now they are beginning to pick up," he told reporters on his arrival at London airport.

Dr. Owen had had discussions with Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and is prepared to be flexible some of his proposals which were not acceptable to the Egyptians.

Dr. Owen stressed that the outcome of the peace talks was of crucial importance to the West. "The Middle East in 1973 triggered off an economic recession and that could happen again. The opportunity for peace is an immense prize and we must do everything possible to achieve it."

The foreign secretary said his role in the talks was of central importance. But what happens is of crucial interest to European community countries as a whole.

Dr. Owen told a news conference in Israel yesterday that he found it difficult to see how progress could be made on the West Bank issue without Jordanian participation.

Dr. Owen said he had not much time discussing the "question of Jewish settlements in the occupied lands," but he said Britain agreed with the

United States that such settlements were illegal.

He also said he thought that U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 on the Middle East might have outlived its purpose.

Israel favours the resolution because it is vague about the extent of Israeli withdrawal, does not mention the Palestinian issue and calls for secure and recognised borders for all Middle Eastern states.

Dr. Owen said that President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem last November broke the mould of Middle East politics.

"Sadly I see signs now of the mould slowly being put together," he said.

Dr. Owen said that Israel's response to President Sadat's initiative consisted of proposals for a phased withdrawal to the international frontier in Sinai and for the West Bank a detailed plan for five years subject to review.

"It was not perfect but it remains in our view a constructive response capable of providing a framework for negotiation. There is therefore clearly a chance for peace," he observed.

Dr. Owen also said that he was unhesitating in advocating the taking of steps within a transitional process even without having absolute certainty as to the outcome.

He said that waiting for ultimate, total and absolute solutions was more likely to lead to a hardening of attitudes on unilateral implementation. The crucial element in the Israeli proposals was its advocacy of a transition. This ought to be built upon and given serious thought, Dr. Owen added.

World News Roundup

Begin due in Washington March 13

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (Agencies). — The White House formally announced yesterday that Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin will arrive here March 13 for discussions with President Carter on Middle East peace negotiations. Mr. Begin will meet with a presidential March 14 and 15 "to conduct an extensive review of progress made in the Arab-Israeli negotiations and how to proceed a comprehensive peace," said White House Press Secretary Jody Powell. Mr. Powell declined to comment on a decision Sunday by an Israeli cabinet not to change its policy on settlements in occupied Arab lands. The Carter administration opposes the settlements on an obstacle to peace and on the grounds that they violate international law. The main emphasis of the talks was expected to be U.S. disapproval of Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territory, Israel's stance over the administration's proposal to sell jet fighters to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and ways to resume stalled peace negotiations between Egypt and Israel.

Syrian envoy carries letters to King Khaled, Gulf states

DAMASCUS, Syria, Feb. 28 (AP). — A special Syrian emissary flew to Riyadh today with a letter from President Hafiz Assad to King Khaled of Saudi Arabia. The contents of the letter, being carried by Adib Daoudi, a presidential adviser, were not disclosed, but were believed to deal with Syria's continued opposition to President Anwar Sadat's peace initiative. Mr. Daoudi, it was officially announced here, will also carry similar letters to the rulers of other Gulf oil states -- Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Fuad Butros in Damascus for talks

BEIRUT, Feb. 28 (R). — Lebanese Foreign Minister Fuad Butros left Beirut today for a short visit to Damascus during which he will deliver a message from President Elias Sarkis to Syrian President Hafez Assad. Official sources said Mr. Butros would have talks on bilateral relations, the Middle East crisis and renewal of the mandate of the 30,000-man Arab peace force in Lebanon. The mandate of the force entered Lebanon 15 months ago, expires on April 26. The peace force entered Lebanon under an Arab League decision, but the league council is unlikely to meet to decide on the renewal in view of the split in the Arab world over Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's moves towards peace with Israel.

Sweden to protest presence of Soviet nuclear subs in Baltic

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Feb. 28 (AP). — Sweden will express concern to the Soviet Union about six Russian submarines carrying nuclear missiles that patrol the Baltic Sea, the Swedish Foreign Ministry said today. "We don't like it," ministry spokesman Lars Rohmert said. He said the flotilla was stationed permanently in the sea between Sweden and Russia about one year ago. "We plan to take up this question on a diplomatic level," he said. Foreign Minister Karin Soder revealed the presence of the Russian subs in an interview published Tuesday in a Stockholm newspaper. "Credibility of political debate could be hurt if the superpowers do not act with efficiency to limit the armament instead of developing new nuclear weapons and spreading existing weapons to new areas," Mrs. Soder told the newspaper.

Somali president consults Qadhafi

TRIPOLI, Feb. 28 (R). — Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre arrived here today for talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi which were expected to include developments in the Ogaden desert war.

A Libyan Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Somali leader would meet Col. Qadhafi tonight. It was not known how long Mr. Siad Barre planned to stay here.

Observers said it was possible that Somalia wanted the Libyan Jamahiriya to act as a mediator in the eight-month-old Ogaden war in which Somali forces are fighting Ethiopian troops backed by Russian and Cuban advisors for control of the disputed region.

President Siad Barre tore up a friendship treaty with the Soviet Union last year and since then the tide of the war has turned against the Somali forces who last year pushed the Ethiopians back to the strategic mountain city of Harar.

Arafat: Armed resistance is the only way to peace in Middle East

BEIRUT, Feb. 27 (R). — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said today only the armed actions of Palestinian resistance forces could restore peace to the Middle East.

In a militant speech to members of Fateh, the biggest commando group, he compared the Palestinian revolution with the Vietnam and Algerian wars of liberation and pledged that a Palestinian would one day raise an Arab flag over Jerusalem.

Mr. Arafat was speaking at the launching of three specialist guerrilla training courses at a Palestinian refugee camp outside Beirut.

"These training sessions mean that the revolution says to (U.S. President Jimmy) Carter and (Israeli Premier Menachem) Begin and their agents in the Arab World that there will never be reconciliation or peace in the region except through you who took up arms..." he said.

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Not a very forceful performance for an old terrorist

The Israeli cabinet's decision over the weekend to maintain its stated policy on Jewish settlements in occupied Arab territory is an unfortunate but telling move. It indicates most clearly the domestic constraints within which Premier Menachem Begin's government has to act, particularly the pressures of rightist religious parties and the fervent nationalists for whom the right to settle in all of Palestine is supposedly granted by no less a figure than God himself.

Given these domestic pressures, it is understandably difficult for Mr. Begin and his government to come out with a clear statement against new settlements. But if it is difficult, it is not impossible, and it would be very useful, if there were real interest in Israel in keeping the negotiations with Egypt alive. The settlements have emerged as the most dramatic issue in the current bilateral negotiations, and their case is complicated by the different groups in Israel that support the settlements for different reasons. We see that, besides the religious parties, support for the settlements in Sinai comes from people such as Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, who says the settlements are needed to assure the demilitarised status of the Sinai in the wake of a peace agreement. Others say that settlements are needed along the southern Sinai coast and the Gulf of Aqaba to assure the passage of Israeli ships.

Given these different pressures in Israel, Mr. Begin has little manoeuvring room, and the cabinet decision this week to stick to its policy of expanding and creating new settlements is a sign of weakness on the part of the Begin government. Unfortunately, this weakness comes as a reply to the daring moves of President Sadat, and in reply to the issue of settlements that has emerged as the most symbolic of Israeli aggression and usurped Arab sovereignty. Where it counts most, Mr. Begin has again given least.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

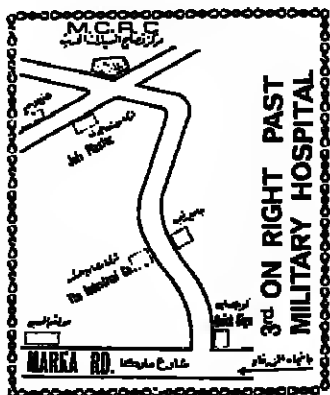
AL RAI, on Tuesday, said one is beginning to wonder at the decisions and actions of the Egyptian government against Cyprus, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the Palestinian people and even against the Palestinian Cause. We all condemn the assassination of the Egyptian editor Youssef Sibai but the Egyptian reaction has reached unacceptable and unreasonable proportions. In contrast, five years ago when Jordan's Premier Wasfi Al Tal was shot dead by terrorists in Cairo Jordan never went to such extremes: Jordan did not hold Egypt responsible and it did not accuse the Palestinians of being terrorists.

AL DUSTOUR said while Egypt has restated its "historical and national commitment" to the Palestinian Cause the hope is it will re-examine its latest decisions, which amount to a cooling off of relations with the Palestinian brothers. In this connection one must ask why since all Arab parties are agreed on a joint strategy towards the Middle East conflict, could not this be enough to prompt a stop to tactical differences among them in at least this delicate stage of developments? Until the better alternative of joint Arab action is available the Arabs must put an end to such bickering otherwise the outcome of continued quarrels might lead us all to disaster.

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New science helps in search for biblical city of Sodom

By Susan Balderstone
 Special to the Jordan Times

The relatively new science of paleoethnobotany is being used to help piece together the 5,000 year old puzzle of the ancient biblical "cities of the plain".

Paleoethnobotany? It is the study of plants used or gathered by ancient cultures. This year's Albright fellow at the American Centre for Oriental Research, David McCrery, outlined the nature and uses of this science at a recent lecture at the centre to the Friends of Archaeology and others.

During two seasons of excavation at Bab Al D'ra and Numaira, near Mazra'a and the south-eastern shore of the Dead Sea, Mr. McCrery has been collecting and sorting plant remains with the aim of reconstructing the agricultural systems existing at the time of occupation of these sites, and learning the diet of the inhabitants.

Bab Al D'ra is located at the mouth of Wadi Kerak overlooking the peninsula which juts into the Dead Sea. It was first discovered as a significant archaeological site by Dr. Albright and Dr. Kyle of the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem, in 1924. They were searching for the five "cities of the plain" mentioned in Chapter XIV of the Book of Genesis (of which Sodom and Gomorrah are the best known). They collected sherds and excavated tombs and concluded that this was an Early Bronze Age site dating from 3,000-2,000 B.C. Dr. Paul Lapp then excavated the site in 1965 and 1967 and established that it comprised a walled city to the north with a very extensive cemetery outside the city to the south. In fact it is believed to be the most vast Early Bronze Age cemetery yet discovered in the ancient Near East.

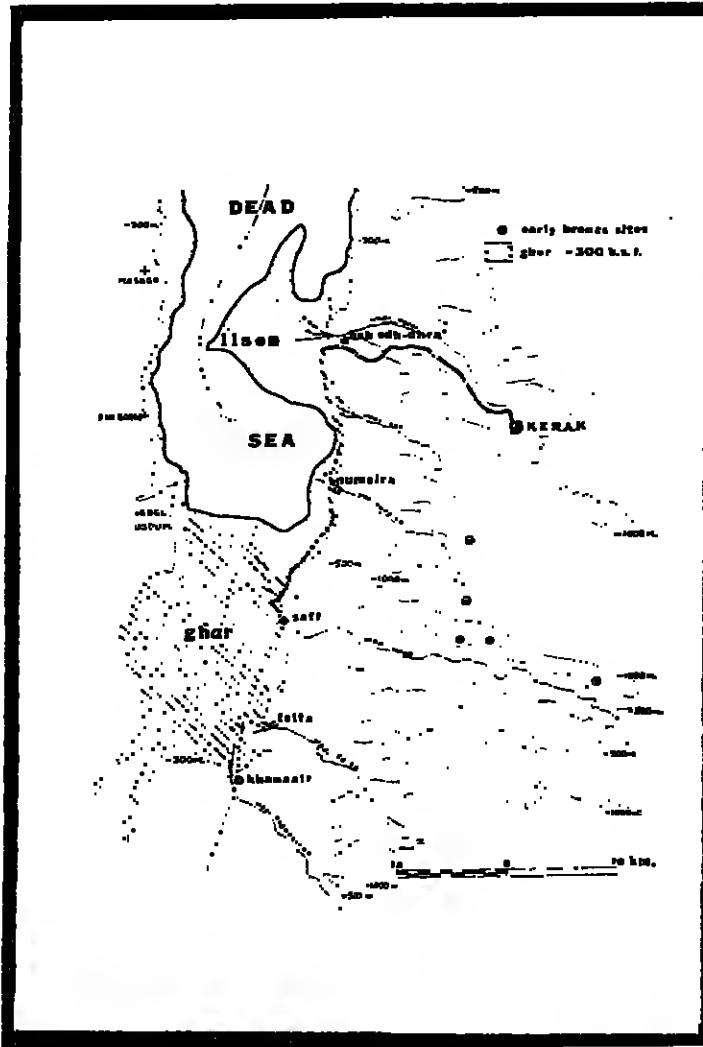
Four more sites

In 1973, two of Dr. Lapp's students, now Dr. Walter Kast and Dr. R. Thomas Schaub, surveyed the area and located four more ancient city sites contemporary with Bab Al D'ra. These are Numaira, Sari, Feila and Khanazir, all located similarly to Bab Al D'ra at the mouths of their wadis, overlooking the plain.

Drs. Kast and Schaub began excavating Bab Al D'ra in 1975 with an interdisciplinary team including Mr. McCrery and a physical anthropologist from the Smithsonian Institution of America. The work of the anthropologist has been to collect bones from the tombs of the cemetery for analysis of genetic characteristics. It is hoped by this analysis to establish whether they belonged to one or more tribal or family groups and to determine their ethnic type.

Mr. McCrery demonstrated the apparatus which he used to isolate the plant remains from the soil and debris of the site. It comprises a special bucket and sieve. The bucket is filled with water and the soil sample is placed in the sieve which is then lowered into the water and gently and continually shaken. Since the only surviving plant remains were in a carbonised state and lightweight, they floated easily in the tap (together with other carbonised material such as wood) and were skimmed off.

The job of sorting, identification and interpretation which then begins can raise difficult problems. Mr. McCrery said a significant problem is that due to distortion of a seed during carbonisation. Experts can disagree as to whether it is wheat or barley! In



A map of the area being searched for traces of the "cities of the plain."

addition it is impossible to be sure one has dug in all the places where plant remains are to be found and certain types may be missed altogether.

Wealthy traders

However from the evidence discovered and analysed to date, Mr. McCrery believes that the Early Bronze Age inhabitants of Bab Al D'ra grew and or used wheat and barley, flax, grapes, figs, pistachio nuts, almonds, olives, pine nuts, lentils, chick peas, pumpkin, watermelon and castor-oil plant. Of these the almonds and the fruit would have been imported from a higher altitude, perhaps only 20 or 30 kms. away. He suggests that the diet of these ancient people was therefore considerably more varied than that of the people of Mazra'a today, and that the ancient people were fairly wealthy and traded with their neighbours.

It seems fairly certain that irrigation was practised. Although it is believed that the climate there was more humid in those days, Mr. McCrery pointed out that the annual rainfall would have to have been five times as high as it is now for it to have been sufficient for dry-land farming. This he believes was unlikely. Also he noted that the

flax seeds discovered are more than six millimetres in size which today is possible only under irrigation.

Mr. McCrery and his wife are planning a survey of the area next month to try to find structural evidence of irrigation which they expect to look the form of check dams up the wadi.

The studies carried out by Mr. McCrery indicate that conditions existed which could possibly fit with the biblical description of the five "cities of the plain" -- Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeb- oim and Zoar. The description in Genesis XIII:10, where the plain is described as "well watered everywhere, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the Lord."

However Mr. McCrery pointed out that the archaeological evidence gives the date of the destruction of Bab Al D'ra as no later than 2300 B.C. Since the date generally accepted by scholars for the period of Abraham and Lot (according to the Bible, Lot lived at Sodom before its destruction) is somewhere around 1,900-1,750 B.C., there is a tantalizing discrepancy of 400-550 years.

Thus the fascinating speculation as to whether Bab Al D'ra is in fact the site of the ancient wicked city of Sodom seems likely to continue.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Friends of Archaeology meeting

The Friends of Archaeology will meet tonight at the British Council at 6:00 p.m. to elect new officers. New members are welcomed and old members are expected to pay their annual subscriptions on this occasion.

Detective film

A new series of detective films starts tonight at the Goethe Institute with "Mazurka". The film starts at 8:00, in German only.

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For more details please call tel. 41604 between 5-6 p.m.

Prince Hassan confers with U.S. delegation

AMMAN, Feb. 28 (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, today met an American delegation which represents a number of municipal councils in the United States of America and reviewed with the members of the delegation the situation in the West Bank of Jordan since the beginning of occupation and the pressures practised by the Israeli occupation forces on the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Middle East situation was also discussed along with what Israeli intransigence puts in the way of reaching a comprehensive and just settlement in the region. Prince Hassan also answered a number of questions on Jordan's position vis-a-vis the current moves taking place for announcing principles which might form a basis for a just and comprehensive solution of the Palestinian problem.

His Highness reiterated Jordan's insistence that such an announcement must include total Israeli withdrawal, right of self-determination for the Palestinians and security guarantees for all states in the region.

UNESCO mission discusses Jerusalem situation

Prince Hassan, also received today the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), fact-finding mission to the occupied Arab territory headed by Mr. Paul Mark Henry.

Discussion centred on gathering information about educational and cultural situations in the occupied lands of Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh, the Director of the Executive Office for Occu-

upied Territory Affairs. The UNESCO mission also met here today with the President of the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs, H.E. Mr. Ahmad Toukan, the Commission members and the deported Mayor of Arab Jerusalem, Mr. Roubi Al Khatib.

During the meeting the Jordanian side presented documents and maps which prove Israel's illegal practice in Jerusalem and the occupied Arab lands. The meeting was attended by the president of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society, UNESCO representatives at the Ministry of Education and the director of the antiquities department.

Plea for help from Siad Barre

AMMAN, Feb. 28 (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan today received a copy of the cable Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre sent to Arab Kings and presidents through the Arab League. The cable explained the dangerous situation Somalia is going through and called on all Arab states to back it against foreign aggression as stipulated in the Arab League charter and the joint Arab defence charter. He stressed that the aggression would affect not only Somalia but the Arab nation as a whole.

Snow? We love it, Alia's diverted passengers tell Canadian newspaper

AMMAN, Feb. 28 (JT). — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, weathered its first western hemisphere blizzard in royal fashion earlier this month. What could have become an unhappy ordeal for 133 passengers on an Amman-New York flight became instead a pleasant diversion.

Flight 261, Alia's Boeing 747, took off at midday Feb. 6 from Amman International Airport in nice weather. But across the Atlantic a classic snowstorm was gathering force and had begun burying the northeastern United States as Flight 261 neared.

An hour and a half out of New York, Captain Eddy Rasbed learned all three major airports in the big city's metropolitan area had been ordered closed because of obscured runways. Boston's Logan Airport, another big U.S. entry point, had also been closed. Capt. Rasbed diverted his plane to

Montreal International Airport, still open.

There, Alia's District Sales Manager, George Rabbat, and his staff, with only 50 minutes' notice, swung into action to care for the diverted passengers. Canadian authorities waived regulations to let the unexpected visitors step temporarily onto Canadian soil and "Air Canada gave us fantastic handling at the airport," reported Rabbat.

Rabbat found rooms at Low's LaCite Hotel where the "Montreal Gazette" interviewed the disrupted but comfortable passengers as they stood in the glassed-in lobby and watched the wind pile up big snowdrifts outside. Many were on their way to sunny vacation spots like Florida and had no winter clothes along.

Some of the passengers and crew had never seen snow, much less a blizzard. For them, the sudden side trip to Canada

proved quite a thrill.

"I've seen blowing sand before, but never blowing snow," Alia's co-pilot, marveled to a Gazette reporter. The newspaper front-paged the story under the headline, "Diverted Travelers delighted at first glimpse of a blizzard." A photo of a woman passenger, Sylvia Karaby of Lebanon and her two-year-old daughter Carol, accompanied the story, depicting their delight at witnessing their first snowstorm.

The Alia passengers were scheduled for 48 hours in Canada before New York was clear enough for them to complete their interrupted journey on Feb. 8.

"Making 133 people happy was not a small thing," sighed an exhausted but satisfied George Rabbat when it was all over. He and his staff stayed right to the end with the passengers in the hotel to see to their needs and get them safely off again.

Advertise by mail In the Jordan Times

The Jordan Times can accept classified advertisements that are sent in by mail and accompanied by full payment in cash. Readers and advertisers who cannot conveniently bring their advertisements to the Jordan Times office or to an advertising agency office in Amman may send in their ads by mail on the following conditions:

1. Full payment in cash accompanies the advertisement.
2. The minimum charge for a single advertisement is JD 3.
3. Advertisements sent by mail cannot contain any artwork such as company emblems, photos or drawings, but must consist only of a headline and copy that will be typed by the Jordan Times.
4. Advertisements are not accepted over the telephone or telex, and guaranteed insertions on specific dates can only be assured by sending in the advertisements so they reach the Jordan Times office at least two days before the required day of publication.
5. For the minimum price of JD 3, the advertiser will have published an advertisement of three centimetres on two columns, which will have a maximum of 30 words, including the headline and telephone numbers to be called. The JD 3 charge is for one insertion; two insertions cost JD 6, three insertions cost JD 9, etc.
6. For a larger ad, the rates are JD 4 for 40 words and JD 5 for 50 words.
7. You can take advantage of the Jordan Times advertising by mail facility by completing the form below and mailing it with full payment in cash only to:

Advertising Department
 The Jordan Times
 P.O. Box 6710
 Amman, Jordan

Advertisers in Jordan must pay in Jordanian dinars; those in Syria may pay in Syrian currency at the going conversion rate.

(write one word only per box -- please print)

Please publish the above advertisement in the Jordan Times on _____ day (s). Enclosed is payment of _____.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Signature: _____

National News Roundup

Silver Jubilee fund still collecting

AMMAN, Feb. 28 (JNA). — The third collection of contributions for the Silver Jubilee Fund brought in 37,000 it was announced today. Contributions came from four Jordanian banks as well as other institutions and companies. The Central Bank of Jordan, which is accepting contributions for the Fund, accepts cash as well as cheques which should be sent to the Fund's Board of Trustees, care of the Central Bank.

Algerian envoy ends two day visit

AMMAN, Feb. 28 (JNA). — Algerian ambassador to Jordan, Mohamed Youssef, left here Monday after a two-day visit to Jordan. He met his Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, and delivered to him a message from his Majesty the King from President Boumedienne of Algeria. The envoy also met the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hassan Ibrahim, with whom he reviewed current Arab affairs and the Middle East situation. He also toured front line positions and the Jordanian army.

Jordanian envoy presents credentials to Luxembourg

EMBOLD, Feb. 28 (JNA). — Jordan's ambassador to West Germany, Ibrahim Izzeddine, today presented credentials to Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg as on-resident ambassador to the Grand Duchy. While presenting the credentials, the ambassador conveyed His Majesty King Hussein's compliments to the Grand Duke and expressed the hope that strong economic relations be established between Jordan and Luxembourg. The ambassador also expressed Jordan's interest to see Luxembourg along with the EEC countries pursue efforts at finding a just and lasting solution to the Middle East problem.

Egyptian trade group visits Aqaba

AMMAN, Feb. 28 (JNA). — Members of the Egyptian trade delegation on Monday visited Aqaba port, accompanied by officials of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The visit comes within a programme especially drawn up to acquaint them with Jordan's most important industrial and commercial projects and methods of shipment from Aqaba to Arab and European harbours. Egyptian delegation had held several meetings in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, discussing aspects of Jordanian-Egyptian trade cooperation in order to work up a new trade protocol defining products to be exported to Egypt and those to be imported by Jordan under the Arab common market agreement.

Beggars rounded up

AMMAN, Feb. 28 (JNA). — The Social Affairs Department, in cooperation with the Public Security Department, today carried out a campaign in the market places of Amman to rid them of beggars and vagrants. Twenty-one people altogether were found, including some juveniles, and it was decided to admit them to social institutions for their rehabilitation. A source at the Department of Social Affairs said that similar campaigns are to be carried out again in Amman and other towns.

Digging back 4,000 years

AMMAN, Feb. 28 (JNA). — A team from the Antiquities Department and the University of Jordan have started excavations in Tal Al Mazar in the Jordan Valley in continuation of the work carried out there last year. The director of the Antiquities Department, Dr. Adnan Hadidi, said that the team's work this season is aimed at uncovering further ancient layers of residential quarters at Tal Al Mazar as well as tombs dating back to the Canaanite and Ammonite epochs (2,000 and 1,000 BC respectively).

Police course graduates

AMMAN, Feb. 28 (JNA). — A graduation ceremony for 24 Public Security officers was held here today at the Royal Police Academy. The officers from the intelligence, and traffic departments have completed eight-week courses studying subjects ranging from traffic laws to criminal investigations and public relations. The Director of the Public Security Department, Lt. Gen. Ghazi Arabiyat who sponsored the graduation pointed out the importance of the officers' work and reviewed the different stages of evolution which the Royal Police Academy had gone through. At the end of the ceremony, he distributed diplomas to the graduates and prizes to those excelling in their courses.

UK help for Irbid area electricity

IRBID, Feb. 28 (JNA). — A team of British experts has concluded technical and financial studies for the Irbid district electricity plan in general and the Kfarat region in particular. The study included distribution stations and transmission lines. An Irbid electricity company source stated that an agreement was reached with Britain under which the Kfarat electricity project will be loaned JD 3 million.

Agriculture cooperation with Michigan mooted

IRBID, Feb. 28 (JNA). — The Michigan State secretary of agriculture visited on Monday Yarmouk University and was acquainted on its accomplishments and future plans. The University President, Dr. Adnan Badran, discussed with the American visitor possible cooperation between the Michigan State Agriculture Department and the university Faculty of Agriculture after it has been established.

\$10m loan for Jordan discussed

AMMAN, Feb. 28 (JNA). — The Under-secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Farid Ubaid, returned here Monday from Cairo after attending the meetings of the Arab African Bank board of directors. Mr. Ubaid said that during the three day meetings which started on Feb. 24th the board discussed the subject of investments and the granting of loans to a number of Arab and African countries including Jordan. The board also ratified the general budget of the bank and recommended that ten per cent of the profits be distributed to the share holding states. Besides attending the meetings, Mr. Ubaid held what he described as "successful talks" with the chairman of the board and other officials over obtaining a \$10 million loan to finance a 300-room hotel now under construction by the Jordan Hotels and Restaurants Corporation.

Econoscope

By Jawad Ahmad

Inspection, observation, follow-up, supervision, etc...

Last week the Science and Technology Policy Conference issued its recommendations. They certainly proved to be worth the efforts while, and came as a partial realisation of a rational aspiration.

But this is not the only notable conference of its kind that takes place. In Jordan this year, other conferences of note will be held such as the conference on water and irrigation, another on women's affairs, and probably a conference on telecommunications.

OK!! so far so good. The conferences have become an art which Jordanians have come to master. But what happens to implementation? Who makes sure that the sweat of highly specialised conferences will be at least given post-perennial consideration?

This state of affairs is not only limited to conferences but extends to more critical areas. Let us look through a surveyor's eye at some of the living examples.

The Accountancy Department is established to observe the government's financial behaviour and make sure that each department spends in conformity with the Budget laws and other relevant regulations.

The Ministry of Supply observes the supply policy in Jordan and makes sure (or tries) to observe pricing policy and punish violators.

The Ministry of Labour inspects organised firms and checks whether they apply the provisions of the Labour Law.

The Central Bank carries out current inspection on commercial banks and observes their compliance with the regulations and directives issued by it.

The Amman Municipality observes health standards and construction activity to ensure proper adherence to concerned laws.

The list could extend inexhaustibly. The task of follow-up for instance is carried out by such departments as the National Planning Council, the Specialised Credit Institutions and the Ministry of Public Works.

Other Departments observe activities and inspect on them such as the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Department of Social Affairs, etc.

One may go on and on forever. Yet there are certain remarks that must be taken into account:

First, there is duplication. Health for instance in firms is the function of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and the municipality concerned. Who should do what is not always clear.

Second, there are cases of contradiction. While the Ministry of Supply works at ensuring vegetables and fruits in sufficient quantities in the market, other agricultural departments want to encourage their export.

Third: There is always demand for more supervision a follow-up on all government departmental and inter-departmental levels. There is a bias which is actually increasing the scope of such activities.

The cost of supervision, follow-up, inspection, etc., is truly high and the returns are not convincing. It is about time these activities are coordinated, minimized and made more efficient. This could be the best way ever to cut government recurring expenditure.

Amman Stock Exchange Report

NAME OF COMPANY	Nominal share value	Volume traded	Opening price	Highest selling price	Lowest selling price	Closing price	Last buying bid	Last selling bid
1* Jordan-Kuwait Bank	JD 1,000	38	1,400	1,350	1,350	1,350	—	—
2 Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Co.	JD 1,000	410	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150	—	2,200
3 Arab Pharmaceutical Co.	JD 5,000	744	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	—	—
4 Jerusalem Insurance Co.	JD 1,000	652	2,150	2,250	2,200	2,200	—	—
5 Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	2,043	1,400	1,350	1,350	1,350	—	—
6 Jordan Cement Factory	JD 10,000	3,374	15,900	15,850	15,800	15,850	—	—
7 Jordan Ceramics Factory	JD 1,000	1,050	1,000	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,000	1,050
8 Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	1,183	6,850	6,900	6,850	6,850	6,850	6,900

* 50 per cent of share capital paid.

Total volume traded, Tuesday, Feb. 28 : JD 9,444.

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Iran favours review of policy of oil pricing in dollars

U.S. miners' union leaders brief members on proposals

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (R). — Iran indicated yesterday that U.S. success or failure in stemming the decline in the dollar could be a crucial factor in whether oil exporting nations continue to fix oil prices in dollars. After a one-hour meeting with Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal, Iranian Finance Minister Mohammad Yeganeh told reporters that his nation favours reviewing the current policy of pricing oil in dollars.

But he stressed that his nation has not decided its ultimate stand. Member nations of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) "are concerned with the erosion of the dollar and hope U.S. efforts are successful," Mr. Yeganeh said.

Mr. Yeganeh said the issue would probably come up at the May meeting of OPEC finance ministers as well as the June meeting of oil ministers. Mr. Blumenthal, who was due at Congress immediately

after his meeting with Mr. Yeganeh, did not comment to reporters. A Treasury spokesman declined to comment on the Iranian minister's remarks.

A decision by Iran to push for a break between the link between OPEC oil prices and the dollar could set the stage for what has become a classic confrontation inside OPEC. Kuwait and Qatar have said they want to consider the issue, but Mr. Blumenthal said Saudi Arabian officials had told him they did not want to

end the link. In the past, Iran and Saudi Arabia, OPEC's two major producers, have differed over pricing, with Iran and others raising prices on one occasion while Saudi Arabia held its prices steady.

A break in the link between OPEC prices and the dollar could further aggravate the U.S. trade position in situations, such as now, when the dollar is falling in value against other major currencies.

The U.S., which ran a \$26.7 billion trade deficit last year, spends about \$45 billion a year on foreign oil.

A depreciation of the dollar against whatever is used for oil pricing would mean an effective price increase for imported oil.

Past consideration of a break between the dollar and OPEC prices have centred on the International Monetary Fund's special drawing right, an artificial money unit based on the composite value of a "basket" of 16 individual currencies, including the U.S. dollar.

U.S. senator calls for international oil price agreement

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (R). — Senator Frank Church yesterday called for an international agreement on oil pricing similar to those for other basic commodities, saying such a move would benefit both producers and consumers.

Senator Church, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Foreign Economic Policy, said his plan would provide for an internationally negotiated oil price range to replace prices unilaterally imposed by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

This would mean consuming nations would be represented by governments instead of the multinational oil companies. The senator told a subcommittee hearing that national

oil stockpiles — such as the one planned by the United States — might become part of an international buffer arrangement to maintain supplies and stabilise prices.

He said there would be immediate benefits for the oil producers who were faced by a glut of oil because of new production.

Many OPEC members, he said, might welcome the chance to sell more oil and could do so if buffer stocks were built.

Mr. Church made his comments at the start of a hearing on progress in the so-called North-South dialogue between industrial nations and the developing countries, who have called for a new international economic order.

Interflug opens Tripoli route

EAST BERLIN, Feb. 28 (R). — The East German national airline Interflug yesterday opened a new weekly route to Tripoli, extending its international network to around 85,000 kms, the ADN News Agency reported.

Flying time from East Berlin to the Libyan capital in a Soviet-built IL-62 jet was given as three hours 35 minutes.

Israel's judges, bus drivers go on strike

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28 (R). — Magistrates throughout Israel today walked out of their court rooms to discuss demands for higher pay.

The judges have demanded big increases but Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich suggested they should hold off negotiations until April.

Also about 600 striking bus drivers fought police yesterday and tried to paralyse the country's bus transport.

Sixteen drivers were arrested and one policeman was slightly injured in the melee, a police spokesman said.

The violence appeared to herald a new wave of strikes likely to hit the inflation-ridden economy.

Besides the 3,000 bus drivers, airport maintenance men stopped work briefly Monday and merchant seamen maintained their six week strike.

Merrill Lynch economist casts doubt on Britain's euphoric economic future

NEW YORK, Feb. 28 (R). — Britain's euphoria over its economic future is not really warranted, according to an economist for Merrill Lynch economics, a subsidiary of the largest U.S. brokerage house.

"No matter how you look at it, the upcoming recovery is being built on weak foundations," Mr. Arnold Simkin, Merrill Lynch's Chief Economist in London, says in a report issued this month.

"Britain's euphoria therefore is not really warranted. It's political and may just outlast the next election, and no more," he added.

Mr. Simkin forecasts that the government deficit for the financial year beginning in April is likely to be around £8 billion compared with a projected deficit in the current year of around £7.5 billion. "Such growth of the government deficit could give the economy trouble after the summer because the deficit will have to be financed," Mr. Simkin adds.

Mr. Simkin also notes that Britain's money supply "is roaring ahead again" at an annual rate of around 20 per cent. "The money supply ex-

plodes is a harbinger of change. Combined with the fiscal kick likely to come out of the April budget, it could give the British economy a big boost in the second-half of 1978, he said.

"But inflation probably will accelerate as well... While the government has laid down a 10 per cent guideline for wage hikes, it is being circumvented. Wage prospects bear very close watching."

Mr. Simkin also reckons that the value of sterling against the dollar will fall in the next few months by 10 to 20 per cent from the current \$1.93. "During the 1970's the British authorities seem to have kept sterling overvalued by between 7-1/2 and 21 per cent. If this range is applied, it suggests an average trading range of between \$1.75 and \$1.56 in the fourth quarter of this year," Mr. Simkin says.

However, he says, \$1.75 might be a politically unacceptable level for sterling, and the "margin of overvaluation might be widened... to perhaps 25 per cent, or to an average of perhaps \$1.81 in the fourth quarter."

ICFTU accuses Tunisia of breaking ILO convention

BRUSSELS, Feb. 28 (R). — The world's largest non-communist trade union grouping yesterday accused Tunisia of breaking the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) conventions by jailing more than 100 trade union leaders.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), which claims a worldwide affiliation of 55 million workers in some 90 countries, said in a statement it had lodged a formal protest at the ILO office in Geneva alleging Tunisia's infringement of trade union rights.

Tunisian police imprisoned an undisclosed number of people during anti-government riots last month in which at least 47 people were killed.

The ICFTU said Tunisia was in breach of Article 87 of the ILO convention, which provides for freedom of association. It said more than 100 union leaders had been in jail since Jan. 26. No charges had been preferred against them. They allowed visits from their families in exceptional cases.

The ICFTU, based here, said it had asked the ILO to pursue the complaint under its emergency procedure.

West Germany cuts trade deficit with Arab countries

BONN, Feb. 28 (R). — West Germany cut its trade deficit with Arab countries to 665 million marks (\$325 million) last year from 2.35 billion marks (\$1.1 billion) in 1976, the Economics Ministry said yesterday.

It said West German exports to the Arab World increased by nearly 11 per cent to 16.15 billion marks (\$8 billion) in 1977. Imports decreased by 0.8

per cent to 16.82 billion marks (\$8.5 billion).

Oil accounts said West Germany bought 61.8 million tons of oil from Arab suppliers last year — about two million tons less than in 1976. Total oil imports last year were 96.3 million tons with about 20 per cent of West Germany's oil imports coming from Libya, followed by Saudi Arabia and Iran.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, (R). — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of interbank trading on the London foreign exchange market last night. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	1.9410/20	U.S. dollars
One dollar	2.0145/65	West German marks
	2.1655/85	Dutch guilders
	1.8125/8200	Swiss francs
	31.40/45	Belgian francs
	4.7675/7750	French francs
	852.00/75	Italian lire
	238.05/25	Japanese yen
	4.6130/60	Swedish crowns
	5.3130/60	Norwegian crowns
	5.5800/30	Danish crowns

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1-1 Instrument landing system cat. II can be up-graded to cat. III.
1-2 VHF - omnidirectional range (VOR) collocated with distance measuring equipment. D.M.E.
1-3 Non-directional radio beacon.

2. Meteorological and associated weather measuring equipment.

3. Air traffic control systems consist of the following:

3-1 ATC desk equipped with radio channels, panel for direct telephone lines, intercom lines, meteorological equipment, digital clocks, provision for future radar display. Panels for monitoring ILS, VOR - DME and NDB shall be coordinated with the Nav aids. With all related central and associated equipment, cables, wires.

— No break power supply system.
3-2 Air to ground VHF and UHF radio sub-system complete with remote and local control equipment, to be connected to the control desk with all associated cables, wires and no break power supply.

3-3 Multi channel recorder to record all channels.

3-4 Microwave link between QAIP and the receiving station main and hot standby with 48 channels complete system.

3-5 All necessary teleprinters and associated equipment (system).

4. Airport ground communications system include the following:

— Private automatic branch exchange.
— Land mobil radio services.
— Complete system with cables, wires, telephone sets, portable transceivers, repeaters.

5. Public address systems.

Flight Information displays.

Closed circuit T.V. surveillance system with all inside and outside cables, wires and associated equipment.

6. Air field lighting system includes-supply-installation-testing-guarantee of operation-hand-over (turn key job) of the following:

6-1 Air field lighting cat. II consist of:
Runway edge lighting. Runway centre line and touch down zone light. Precision approach cat. II, modified culvert system, three bars VASI, taxiway edge and centre line lighting. Apron flood lights, markers, wind cone illumination, hold position sign / stop bars, identification beacon etc. Local and remote control.

6-2 All inside and outside plant. Cables wires and associated control equipment, solid state constant current regulators and other associated equipment for the above including cat. II short break standby power system. According to ICAO document.

7. Control tower cab.

— Shall be of modular structure.
— Shall house the air traffic control facilities with an area between 50-60 square metres. The cab shall have a mechanical room with about the same area to house radio and other equipment.
— The cab shall be air conditioned to environmental conditions.
— The floor of the cab will be 35 metres roughly above the level of the ground.

Contractors who previously submitted prequalification for this work are required to re-apply for prequalification under this notice.

Applications for prequalification shall be submitted before noon on April 8, 1978.

Minister of Transport

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN AMMAN WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

Notice of International Competitive Bidding

and

INVITATION TO TENDERING

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is negotiating a Credit from the US Agency for International Development to partially finance a construction programme of the Water Supply and Sewerage Extensions for the City of Amman, and it is intended that proceeds of this Credit will be applied to payments under the contracts for which this notice is issued. Bidding will be open to contractors and equipment suppliers from U.S. Contractors, Jordanian contractor, and contractors from countries eligible under AID Geographic Code 941. Only tenders from contractors experienced in similar works of this magnitude with proper personnel, equipment and sound financial position, which would be part of evaluation, will be considered.

The works to be carried out will be in principle, divided into six contracts as follows:

Contract No.	Description
IS	Supply and laying of sanitary Sewers, in the central, eastern part of Amman. Approx total length of mains, laterals and house connection is 65 kms.
5WS	Laying of about 74 kms. of water pipes of different diameters in J. Amman, Abdoun and Shmeisani. Supply and laying of about 59 kms. of sanitary sewers in the same area. Civil works for one booster station and one sewage pumping station.
12ST	Changes to existing sewage treatment plant.
13ST	Sludge digester.
14ST	Sludge drying beds.
15ST	Sludge drying beds, second extension.

Tender documents for contracts 15 & 5WS will be available separately from AWSA by May 1st, 1978, and the closing date for bidding has been set at 12:00 noon July 1, 1978. AWSA will consider tenders postmarked no later than June 16, 1978. Envelopes must be clearly marked 15 & 5WS accordingly. The price for each set of these documents is JD 100.-

Tender documents for contracts 12 ST through 15 ST will be available from AWSA by June 1st, 1978 and the closing date for bidding has been set at 12:00 noon July 31, 1978. AWSA will consider tenders postmarked no later than July 15, 1978. Prices for the tender documents of contracts 12 ST through 15 will be as follows:

12 ST	JD 30.-
13 ST	JD 75.-
14 ST	JD 50.-
15 ST	JD 50.-

Envelopes must be clearly marked 12 ST, 13 ST, 14 ST, 15 ST accordingly.

Tahsin Sabbagh
General Manager

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Stock prices closed higher Tuesday but were off the top in generally quiet trading, dealers said. At 15:00 the F.T. index was up 2.7 at 444.5.

Government bonds reacted to a recommendation by the executive committee of British engineering unions for strike action to support a national pay claim, dealers said. Apprehension that the National Institute for Economic and Social Research may issue a negative quarterly review tomorrow also tended to reduce gains in government bonds from 5/8 to 1/4 point. Industrial leaders held quite firm.

Gold shares were steady while Australian stocks firmed. U.S. and Canadian stocks eased.

National Westminster Bank ended 5p higher after its final results. Imperial Metal Industries showed no reaction to its lower earnings figures report but the price firmed 2p ahead of the announcement.

Sedgewick Forbes rose 14p after announcing increased profits for 1978. Elsewhere industrial leaders such as Fisons finished unchanged and ICI added 3p. Bets put on 78p while Beecham showed a net gain of 2p.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

	Jordanian Dhs Buying/Selling
U.S. dollar	310.00/312.00
U.K. sterling	602.00/608.00
W. German mark	151.70/152.60
Swiss franc	165.50/166.40
French franc	65.00/65.40
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.30/36.50
Japanese yen (for every 100)	129.80/130.00
Dutch guilder	142.10/142.30
Belgian franc (for every 100)	97.20/97.80
Swedish crown	67.30/67.70

Price of gold closed in London Tuesday at \$182.00/oz.

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

in the CARROLL RIGTER INSTITUTE

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THIS IS A FLEURON... YOU THOUGHT IT WAS AN ASTERISK, DIDN'T YOU?

A FLEURON DOES NOT APPRECIATE BEING TAKEN FOR AN ASTERISK!

PROBABLY SOMETHING THAT GOES WAY BACK, AND BOTH SIDES OF THE FAMILY HAVE FORGOTTEN

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

NOTHING

S. Schaefer

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"How much trade-in will you allow me on my old model here?"

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIPER CHANT JUNGLE MISFIT
Answer: These lines actually seem to disappear on some people as they get older — HAIRLINES

West was left with a choice of evils. He could either lead a spade into declarer's ace-queen or a diamond to the queen in dummy, allowing declarer to discard the queen of spades. Either way, declarer could only lose two clubs and one diamond.

2. Wretched
3. Achieved
4. Greek ghost
5. Castor bean poison
6. More oppressive
7. Tincture of gold in Heraldry
8. Measure of yarn
9. Bad
10. Wapiti
11. Crude
12. Beside
13. Crew
14. Simpleton
15. Exquisite
16. Impersonator
17. Dry
18. Earned run average
19. Parched
20. Calloway
21. New Jersey river
22. More agreeable
23. Concerning
24. Thrive; prefix
25. Honey buzzard
26. Weep
27. Windmill sail
28. Cask
29. Stool-pigeon
30. From

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

Amman : Shahed (21861)
Doctors : Ranya (25085)
Pharmacies :
 Awad Hawintideh (72350)
 Amman :
 Mohammad Turk (26273)
 Subingh (23157)
Irbit : Qada (21370)
 Mohammad Siradanah
 Shih circle (41112)
Zarga : Razl (77712)
 Hisham Hiyant (81440)
Irbit :
Taxis : Gizaawi
 Asfour (23230)
 Zarga :
 Khalid (29715)
 Jaber Ibn Hayan

06:00		16:30	The Invention
06:05	News; 24 Hours	15:50	Radio Newsworld
06:30	Sarah Ward	16:00	Outlook
06:40	World Today	16:30	News; Commentary
07:00	World Today	16:15	St. Martin-in-the-Fields
07:05	World Today Review	16:30	News; Commentary
07:30	Jazz for the Asking	17:00	Rock Choice
07:40	News; 24 Hours	17:15	Discovery
07:50	World Today	17:30	Sports Round-up
07:55	Report on Religion	18:00	News; News About Britain
08:00	News; Reflections		
08:05	World Today	18:15	Newsweek
08:30	Terry Wogan	19:00	Top Twenty
08:50	News; Crime Review	19:20	Outlook; News Summary
09:00	World Today		
09:30	Financial News	19:30	Stock Market Report
09:40	Newsweek	19:45	Celine Dion
10:00	Talkshow	20:00	News; 24 Hours
10:10	How to be a Millionaire	20:30	London's Musical
11:00	News; News About Britain	21:00	Museums
11:15	When Nothing Else	21:15	Report on Religion
11:30	Fanning World	21:30	News; World Today
12:00	Radio Newsworld	22:00	International News
12:15	World Today	22:15	Rock Choice; Reflections
12:45	Sports Round-up		
13:00	World Today	22:45	Sports Round-up
13:15	World Today Club	23:00	News; Commentary
13:45	A Jolly Good Show	23:30	News; Commentary
		23:45	Marathon on Music

03:50	The Breakfast Show News	Words and their Stories, Feature: Short Stories, News Summary
04:20	on the hour and 28 min.	
06:20	after each hour	18:30 Country Music USA
06:30	Regional and Topical Paperbacks	19:00 News and Topical Reports
09:45	dia commentaries ... news analyses.	19:15 from Livecast
17:00	News	18:30 New York, New York
17:15	This Week	20:00 Special English, News
17:20	Press Conference USA	Words and their Stories
18:30	Special English, News	20:15
		06:00 USA
		16:00 GMT

Arrivals :	Departures :
7:55 Dibrugar, Kurmit	8:00 Agartta
8:25 Dhubi (AZ)	8:45 Belur (MEA)
8:25 Muscat, Doha	8:55 Athens, (KLM)
9:00 Jeddah	
9:50	
10:35 Laracca (CY)	
11:15 Belur	9:00 Belur
10:50 Jeddah (SDI)	9:10 Rome (AZ)
12:00 Baghdad (AZ)	9:40 Athens, Benghal
17:15 Amsterdam, Brussels, Geneva	11:20 Laracca (CY)
	12:00 London
18:45 Cairns	12:00 Cairo
19:20 Benghal, Athens	18:00 Baghdad (ZA)
19:40 Belur (MEA)	18:15 Jeddah (SDI)
21:05 Frankfurt, Munich, Del	20:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai
	20:00 Bahrain
02:35 London (BA)	22:35 Rawalpindi (PA)

American Centre (USIS)	Tel.	41820
British Council	"	36147-8
French Cultural Centre	"	37008
Goethe Institute	"	41993
Soviet Cultural Centre	"	42203
Amstet Municipal Library	"	36711

Ambulance (government)	Tel.	75111
Civil defence rescue	"	2429-4
Fire headquarters	"	22000
Firebrigade, fire police	"	19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	"	36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	"	37111-3
Police headquarters	"	39141
Najdah rowing patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	"	21111, 37777
Airport information (AIA)	"	55205

Further poll triumphs firmly restore Gandhi to national politics

NEW DELHI, Feb. 28 (R). — Mrs. Indira Gandhi emerged from political wilderness as the country's most powerful opposition leader today after stunning election victories in two major southern Indian states. Her runaway success in Karnataka where her new party, the Indira Congress, won two-thirds of the seats, and in Andhra Pradesh makes it certain that Mrs. Gandhi, at 60, will again play a key role in national politics.

Mrs. Gandhi inflicted a humiliating defeat on her opponents in the official Congress Party and humbled the national ruling Janata Party. Her future had been in the balance since she was ousted after 11 years as prime minister last March and then lost the support of senior leaders of her Congress Party.

The Janata Party made its best showing in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, centered on Bombay, where it won 51 of the first 150 seats decided. But this still left it well short of the 145 it needs to form a state government in its own right.

The official Congress Party also made its best showing in this state with 37 seats so far against 25 for the Indira Congress and a total of 24 to other parties.

The Indira Congress swept to power in Andhra Pradesh just before midnight last night, winning the 148 seats it needed for an absolute majority.

The Janata Party took 49 seats in the 294-member assembly and the official Congress Party 22.

Mrs. Gandhi's continuing appeal was most clearly demonstrated in Andhra Pradesh where unknown candidates contesting on her ticket defeated sitting members of the last assembly.

Mrs. Gandhi's party won 151 seats in Karnataka out of a total of 224.

Karnataka's former Chief Minister Devaraj Urs, ousted from office six weeks ago when the central government imposed presidential rule on the state, was sworn-in for a second term today. He was Mrs. Gandhi's key ally when she split the Congress Party on Jan. 2 after a bitter dispute over who should lead it.

Mr. Brahmananda Reddy, Gandhi's former Home minister, resigned yesterday to accept responsibility for the official Congress Party's debacle in Karnataka.

The Janata Party's failure to win any of the five states is also likely to worsen the divisions which have appeared recently in its ranks.

East Germany arrests 14 Iranian protesters

EAST BERLIN, Feb. 28 (R). — Fourteen Iranian students were under arrest here today after occupying the Iranian Embassy in protest against the Tehran government's policies.

The students, studying in West Berlin, were in East Germany on day visas when they burst into the embassy shortly after lunchtime yesterday.

They occupied the building for 90 minutes holding four diplomats including the Iranian ambassador inside before being dragged out, kicking and screaming anti-government slogans, by some 20 police who stormed the building.

Before being ejected, the students hung an Iranian flag daubed with the Swastika emblem of Nazi Germany outside a window.

The incident was the first of its kind since East Germany emerged from diplomatic isolation in the early 1970s and seemed certain to cause diplomatic concern about embassy security here.

A spokesman for the students said they were protesting against police action towards demonstrators in the northern Iranian town of Tabriz ten days ago.

The Tehran government said nine people had been killed and 125 injured in riots it alleged were led by Islamic Marxists. The spokesman charged yesterday that police action had caused a "bloodbath" in which 2,000 people died.

The officials East German news agency ADN said the students were under temporary arrest charged with breaking and entering and violating the embassy's territory.

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U.S. senator believes it "illogical" to sell planes to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (R). — President Carter's proposal to sell Saudi Arabia 60 sophisticated F-15 fighters was called "illogical and ill-advised" by an influential senator yesterday.

Sen. Richard Stone, a Florida Democrat and Chairman of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, said in a Senate speech that the sale, together with earlier sales of Hawk missiles, "might threaten Israel". Sen. Stone was one of seven members of the foreign relations committee who wrote to President Carter on Jan. 24 urging him to postpone the sale and warning that it would "destabilise the Arab-Israeli balance of power".

The sale is part of a \$4.8 billion aircraft package for Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Sen. Stone quoted "good sources" as saying that the Saudis were "positioning Hawk anti-aircraft missiles at their base at Tabuk" where they could "threaten Israel, instead of at oil fields they were supposed to guard... The United States has never supplied offensive airplanes or missiles to confront Israel. But we appear to be doing that just now, right when we have the first opportunity in decades for peace," Sen. Stone said.

"What's going on here? Why this illogical step, which seems more an inducement to the threat of war than a chance for peace?"

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is expected to be "sharply" questioned about the proposed Middle East aircraft sales when he appears before the foreign relations committee tomorrow. He has already justified the sales, in appearances before members of the House of Representatives, saying the administration would withdraw them rather than have Congress veto the Arab portion but allow the Israeli sale to go ahead.

Rhodesia, Botswana report border clash

SALISBURY, Feb. 28 (AP). — Rhodesia has admitted that its troops launched a raid across the border into neighboring Botswana yesterday and clashed with troops of the black-ruled state.

The military command here said today the troops had pursued black Rhodesian guerrillas into the neighbouring territory.

Earlier today, a Botswana defence force spokesman reported from the capital of Gaborone a mobile army patrol of about 30 soldiers had been ambushed by Rhodesian troops in northeastern Botswana. An undisclosed number of soldiers were slain in the ambush, according to fellow troops in the patrol, the defence force said.

The clash took place near Kazungula, a Rhodesian troop outpost.

The Rhodesian command said that units of its white-ruled but mainly black security

forces were ambushed by black nationalist guerrillas inside Rhodesia south of Kazungula early yesterday.

Some security force men were wounded, it said. "As a result of the action a follow-up operation was mounted on

the tracks of the terrorists responsible, which led into Botswana," the military command said.

In a separate development in Dar Es Salaam Tanzania President Julius Nyerere voiced concern yesterday over

what he said is apparent headway by Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith in gaining favour with the United States and Britain.

At a news conference in Dar Es Salaam for journalists accompanying visiting West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, President Nyerere said that Mr. Smith, through his talks with black moderate leaders, is "beginning to get people both in London and Washington to say something is coming out of Rhodesia. Mr. Smith is sounding reasonable."

President Nyerere, who chairs the front-line group of African presidents working to end white minority rule in Southern Africa, added: "Smith will never agree to majority rule. He must be forced into it... He will find some reason for rejecting the so-called agreements in Salisbury."

Ethiopia: Peace talks after Somalis withdraw

PRAGUE, Feb. 28 (AP). — Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile-Mariam has ruled out any negotiations with Somalia prior to complete withdrawal of Somali troops from Ethiopian territory. In an interview with Czechoslovak television carried by the Czechoslovak news agency CTK today, Lt.-Col. Mengistu said unless efforts are being made "by imperialist countries and their likes to widen the scope of war" in the Ogaden region, "it is certain that the invading forces of Somalia will be compelled to leave Ethiopian territory."

One hundred days later, most Arabs think Sadat's Israeli trip a blunder

By Bernd Dehmann

BEIRUT, Feb. 28 (R). — One hundred days after President Anwar Sadat flew to Jerusalem in search of peace the Middle East problem seems as far from a solution as ever and his image has suffered, even in the eyes of his friends in other Arab countries.

He was hailed as the "man of peace" by the Egyptian press and made "man of the year" by an American magazine when he flew to Israel on Nov. 19 in defiance of other Arab leaders some of whom viewed him as a traitor.

But even among Arabs who sympathised with his unilateral peace initiative there are those who feel he has mishandled recent developments, including the Larnaca operation last weekend.

Mr. Sadat became the butt of cartoons in the Beirut press after the abortive attempt by Egyptian commandos to storm an aircraft held at Larnaca Airport with 11 hostages aboard by two Arab gunmen who had earlier shot and killed the editor-in-chief of Egypt's semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram. Fifteen Egyptians were killed in a battle with the Cypriot National Guard at the airport.

In an area where honour is all-important, the scathing cartoons were more damaging than editorial arguments the pros and cons of the Larnaca operation.

One cartoon in a left-wing newspaper here pictured a man with a puzzled expression asking another "what does commandos mean?" The reply: "It means a group carrying weapons, wearing uniforms and committing suicide."

Press comment suggested that the order for the ill-fated operation had been given in an attempt to polish up Mr. Sadat's deteriorating image.

Egypt's stability?

Analysts here interpreted a recent remark by the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Andrew Young, as a sign that even Mr. Sadat's American allies are now dubious about Egypt's stability.

Mr. Young said in Miami that he thought President Carter's decision to sell 50 F-15 fighters to Egypt was motivated by fears of a coup in Cairo.

"The only thing that can be dangerous to the United States and to Israel right now might be the overthrow of Sadat by his own military forces," Mr. Young said. "And I think that is the reason that the president made the concession of promising to send airplanes to Egypt."

The F-15 fighter-bomber, built to a 23-year-old design, has been described as a "death-ray" aircraft by Mr. Sadat himself. It would be of no use against Israel, Western airmen say.

African involvement

Mr. Sadat has said he would not use the planes in the Middle East. He needed them, he stated, because he had greater responsibilities in Africa.

At Nairobi earlier this month, Kenyan authorities held an Egyptian aircraft carrying 19 tons of ammunition for Somali forces fighting Soviet-backed Ethiopia in the Ogaden Desert war. According to the

Kenyan version, the Egyptian plane was forced down because it was on an unauthorised flight.

Mr. Sadat's government retaliated by holding a Kenyan airliner on the ground at Cairo Airport and forcing another to land there.

Mr. Sadat took even more drastic action after the Larnaca affair. He severed relations with Nicosia describing Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou as a "political dwarf".

The Egyptian leader had applied the same label three months earlier to leaders of four Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation who met in Tripoli to form an anti-Sadat "Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation."

The final communiqué at Tripoli said that the front had decided to "freeze" relations with Egypt, an obvious compromise to leave open the door for a later reconciliation. But within hours the Egyptian leader had formally severed diplomatic relations.

Initiative's failure?

Opponents of Mr. Sadat have followed recent developments with glee. Mr. Sadat's failure to extract any fundamental concessions from Israel had been predicted by anti-Sadat Arabs and some Western diplomats.

Lack of progress in Mr. Sadat's peace diplomacy with Israel has also been carefully watched by the Soviet Union.

The Kremlin has been trying to play host to leaders of the five-member "Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation" — Syria, Algeria, Libya, South Yemen, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Fierce anti-Somoza riots break out in Nicaragua: 12 dead

MANAGUA, Feb. 28 (R). — Twelve people were killed and 40 injured in fierce anti-government rioting during which Nicaraguan National Guardsmen used armoured cars, machine guns and helicopters, the opposition newspaper Prensa said today.

Earlier a National Guard communiqué said nine people were killed and at least nine wounded in two clashes. Reports of the three additional deaths and the further toll of injured have not been officially confirmed.

Riots have broken out in the last 24 hours in the towns of Ciriamba and Catarina, both within 36 kms. of Managua and the city of Masaya, 26 kms. from Managua.

The wave of violent opposition to 40 years of rule by the Somoza family, has been building up for two months.

Prensa described the situation in Masaya, where it said the three people were killed, as open rebellion. The National Guard has warned journalists that if they ventured into the city it could not guarantee their safety.

In Managua, a power cut last night increased tension and shooting broke out near two universities.

The trouble, sporadic for the past six weeks, intensified a week ago, particularly in the poor Monimbo quarters of Masaya.

It spread to the whole city of 45,000 yesterday following a rally by President Anastasio

to Somoza who told 80,000 supporters he rejected opposition calls for his resignation.

Eyewitnesses said yesterday the National Guard tried to clear the roads by dropping tear gas from helicopters onto angry crowds. A National Guard spokesman said the guards deliberately tried to avoid bloodshed and held off until temperatures cooled.

Witnesses said a group of armed activists from the Monimbo quarters had taken refuge in a church and opened fire on guardsmen who hounded up an armoured car and responded with machinegun fire.

La Prensa reporters who penetrated street barricades said people linked to the government had taken refuge in National Guard barracks while the rioters were burning the homes of known government supporters.

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SWAPO to get more OAU aid

TRIPOLI, Feb. 28 (R). — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Council of Ministers has pledged to increase financial, diplomatic and material assistance to guerrillas fighting against the South African regime in Namibia (South West Africa).

A resolution unanimously approved here last night said the increased aid was to enable the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) to "intensify the armed struggle for the liberation of Namibia."

SWAPO guerrillas are fighting a border war in the territory from bases in neighbouring Angola.

The OAU meeting here also condemned any election in Namibia not held under the auspices of the United Nations.

South Africa rules Namibia under a revoked League of Nations mandate and it plans elections there this year.

Tongsun Park to face U.S. Congress body on Korean bribes' affair

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (R). — Millionaire rice dealer Tongsun Park will be questioned by a Congressional panel today about an alleged South Korean scheme to buy influence in the U.S. Congress.

The House of Representatives Ethics Committee wants to know how much money Mr. Park may have given congressmen, which congressmen and the reasons for the alleged bribes.

Mr. Park, 43, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on 36 counts, including bribery and mail fraud. At a brief arraignment yesterday, he pleaded innocent to all charges and was released on bail.

But the arraignment was a formality since Mr. Park has already been promised immunity from prosecution in return for his cooperation in a Justice Department investigation and his testimony in any criminal trials that may result from the probe, Justice Department sources said.

The secret hearings are expected to take several days. Mr. Park's agreement to return here and face Congressional investigators came only after U.S. congressmen warned they might stop aid to South Korea if Mr. Park failed to appear.

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